



Correa Mail

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MAY MEETING - UNUSUAL PLANTS for the GARDEN With Royce Raleigh

Our speaker for the May meeting was Royce Raleigh. Royce and Jeanne Raleigh have an amazing 5 acre garden in Wartook. It is filled with many rare and unusual plants ... hard to find plants not often seen in gardens.



Royce told us in his introduction that he was hard pressed to select just a few of the many thousands of plants which could fit into his chosen topic. He managed to condense it to one hundred and twenty or so, accompanied by some of his amazing photos, which are used here, with Royce's permission.

He took us through his selection in alphabetical order beginning with the Acacias



A. lasiocarpa, *pulviformis* and *varia* are all small plants that would look great in any garden. Above is

Acacia sedifolia, a small shrub from the Merredin region of south west WA.

Following Acacias were *Actinotus*, *Anigozanthos*, *Babingtonia* (*Baekea*), *Beaufortia* and *Boronia*. *B. aneminifolia* from Victoria and Tasmania is an absolute stunner.



Boronia aneminifolia

Billardiera, *Calytrix*, *Calotis*, *Calothamnus* and *Chamelaucium* all had great representation in Royce's talk. He spoke glowingly of the *Conostylis*, a much under-rated genus, which grows well on Royce's property. *C. aculeata*, *bealiana*, *robusta*, *setigera*, *setosa* and *vaginata* are all interesting and beautiful little plants, found in WA.



Conostylis setosa

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C. setosa is found on the sand-plains and forests around Perth and can vary from white, pink, red, brown and purple flowers.

Next came the curiously named *Cooperookia*, many *Dampiera*, *Darwinia*, *Epacris*, *Eremaea* and *Eucalyptus*. *E. synandra* is a small mallee, known as Jingymia mallee and is found as several small populations on sand-plains and rises in an area between Geraldton and Mount Marshall. According to Royce, everyone should be growing one.



Eucalyptus synandra

From *Eucalyptus* we moved through *Gastrolobium*, *Gossipium*, *Grevillea*, *Hakea*, *Hibbertia* and *Hovea*. The *Hoveas* are striking with their bright purple pea-flowers. *Hovea acanthoclada* is a rigid, heavily spiked plant found in Western Australia from Kalgoorlie to Ravensthorp and around the Fitzgerald River National Park.



Hovea acanthoclada

Following *Hovea* there were *Isopogon*, *Kennedia*, *Lamarchea*, *Leschenaultia*, *Leionema*, *Malleostamon* and the more familiar *Melaleuca*. The *Leschenaultias* are a very colour-diverse group of mostly small shrubs. Colours range from a rare, pure white form of *L. biloba*, through electric blue, mauve and violet to the yellow, orange and reds of *L. formosa*. Royce told us of one road where one can drive for a few hundred metres and see every imaginable colour of this amazing plant.



***Leschenaultia Formosa* variations**

Micromyrtus, *Mirbelia*, *Olearia*, *Personnia*, *Petrophile*, *Pileanthus*, *Psuedanthos*, *Ptilotus* and *Pultenaea* all have some wonderful features that would grace any garden. *Pileanthus peduncularis* is a low, spreading shrub from the sand-plains between Perth and Exmouth in WA. It has lovely orange flowers between August and December.



Pileanthus peduncularis

There followed some wonderful plants ... *Regelia*, *Rinacarpus*, *Swainsona*, *Thomasia*, *Thryptomene*, *Thysanotus* and the wonderful *Verticordia*. My favourite is *V. ovalifolia*, a low, sometimes spindly shrub which may reach around 2m. It is found on the sand-plains and wheat-belt east and north of Perth, WA., and features startling pink and white feather-flowers.



Verticordia ovalifolia

The plant table was a little leaner than usual, but that is not unexpected as winter approaches. However, there were some great specimens, and Matt Leach talked us through them with a great deal of knowledge, and patience. And, as always, there were some interesting Banksias on show. Perhaps the most unusual is *Banksia bauera*, variously known as Woolly Banksia, Possum Banksia or Teddy Bear Banksia because of its very large, furry flower heads. *Banksia conferta* is a large shrub from eastern Australia with tall, cylindrical, yellow and purplish flowers. *Banksia candolleana*, the Propeller Banksia is so named because of the arrangement of its long, serrated leaves. Its orange/yellow flowers appear in late Autumn. *Banksia spinulosa* has many varieties, Birthday Candles for example, and is common in local gardens.



Banksias on display – Photo Bruce McGinness

Grevilleas always feature on our plant tables and tonight was no exception. Hybrids like 'Billy Bonkers', 'Peaches'n'Cream' and 'Superb' do well in our Mediterranean climate and always add colour to the garden. *Grevillea magnifica* and *Grevillea petrophiloides* grow their pink and green cylindrical flowers on the ends of very long stems, making them a feature plant well worth having.



Grevillea petrophiloides near Toodyay WA.

Tony Cavanagh brought along a couple of *Dryandras* which have been long established in his garden at Ocean Grove. (*In deference to Tony, I won't use the 'B' word to describe these plants Ed.*)

D. longifolia is a bushy shrub to about 3m with long, sharply pointed, serrated leaves and terminal yellow flowers. Tony's specimen is over forty years old. *D. quercifolia* has pointed oak-like leaves and red and yellow flowers.



Dryandra quercifolia – Image: Margaret Pieroni

Thryptomenes are coming into flower at the moment and there was a large number and variety on display. Among them were *T. saxicola*, *T. saxicola* 'FC Payne', *T. stenophylla*, *T. baeckeacea* and *T. stenophylla*. *Thryptomenes* are compact shrubs with fine foliage and masses of tiny flowers ranging from white through pink, mauve to purple. Our own Roger Wileman 'found' a mystery *Thryptomene* seedling in his garden ... a mystery because he had never had one and wondered where the seed had come from. He cultivated and donated many plants from this mystery one and it, too, was on the table.



Thryptomene 'Roger's Mystery'

There were many other plants, too numerous to mention individually, but *Calathamnos*, *Hakea*, *Eremophila*, *Beaufortia* and *Correa* were all well represented.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Crowea saligna
By Ade Foster

Bruce McGinness won the door prize and chose Ade's *Crowea saligna* as the Plant of the Month.

Crowea saligna is a compact shrub to about 1.2 m, as is native to the Sydney, Woy Woy, Yerinbool area of NSW, and on the nearby slopes of the Blue Mountains. There it grows in sheltered positions on the local sandstone.



It was first formally described in 1800 by Henry Cranke Andrews. The description was published in "*The Botanist's Repository for New, and Rare Plants*". Andrews was a botanist and a very talented botanical artist. He reportedly named the genus *Correa* after the Portuguese botanist, José Francisco Correia da Serra, who was living in exile in England in the late 1700s, and who pursued research with their mutual colleague Joseph Banks.

The specific epithet, *saligna*, comes from the Latin, meaning "of willow" and refers to the longish, dark green leaves. Indeed the common name of *C. saligna* is the Willow-leaf Wax-flower.

My plant is the cultivar known as 'Large Flower' for rather obvious reasons, and is just coming into full flower now. The flowers are usually about 2.5 cm, with five petals and are a bright vibrant pink. Flowering is from late autumn through winter and into early spring.



Crowea saligna 'Large Flower'

C. saligna prefers moist soils and a semi-shaded position, but will do well in full sun with a little summer watering until well established. It can be pruned to keep it compact, but, depending on its position, this might not be required.

It is a great plant for winter colour and I highly recommend it.

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

These are just a few of the up-coming events that the club is involved with. Please take note of the dates and put them in your diary so you don't miss out.

JUNE MEETING

Members' Night

We are trying a Members' Night again for June. We have the same speakers presenting at just about every Members' Night, and we'd love someone else to put their hand up. We don't bite, so don't be shy.

Have a think about your favourite plant, your top five plants, something that is flowering well (or flowered well last year), any topic really, and tell us all about it.

Or perhaps, if you have a question about anything garden/plant related that you think members might be able to assist with, just ask ... you never know.

If you'd like to bring a special plant along for a more in depth discussion than the plant table offers, do that.

If you just want to show a few photos, you can send them to Ade and he'll put them into a presentation for the big screen.

Have a go You might even enjoy it ☺

2022 MEETINGS

June 21st	-	Members' Night
July 19th	-	Miriam Ford – ' <i>Australian Mint Bushes - Their Beauty, Diversity and Scentual Delights</i> '
Aug 14th	-	Garden visit to Bill and Sue Guymer's garden in Donvale, and others nearby.
August 16th	-	AGM and Photo Competition
Sept 20th	-	David Pye – ' <i>Dryland Eucalypts</i> '.
Oct 9th	-	Visit to Melton Botanic Gardens
Oct 18th	-	TBA
Nov 15th	-	TBA
Dec ??	-	Christmas Break-up. Date TBA
April 1, 2023	-	2023 Plant Sale, tentative date

MISTLETOES, FRIEND or FOE?

by Ade Foster

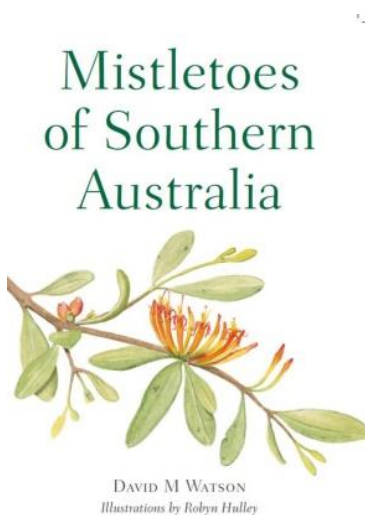
A chance post on a native plant Facebook page that I follow got me thinking. The post asked where one could buy Mistletoe seeds, as the poster wanted to introduce them into his garden. He was immediately set upon by quite strident posters who stated in no uncertain terms that 'Mistletoes will kill your trees'.

But, will they? One poster disagreed and posted a link to a news story. I read it with interest and that led to more research. Here's what I found out. Firstly, Melbourne City Council has deliberately infected healthy trees with mistletoes. Why?



Mistletoe on a *Grevillea striata* near Little Topar NSW

Let's go back a step. What are Mistletoes? They are woody, parasitic plants, mostly of the upper story of many native trees. There are almost 100 species of native Mistletoes in Australia. They are found in almost every climatic area of the country and in every state except Tasmania. Their leaves tend to resemble the leaves of the plants they parasitize.



They draw their water and some minerals from the host tree, but most maintain the ability to photosynthesize and provide their own sources of food. It is not a typical one-way, parasitic relationship. Mistletoes drop their leaves, but don't withdraw any of the nutrients from them before they do. So

there may be more potassium and other vital elements in the dropped mistletoe leaves, than in the entire eucalypt that it is growing on.

Professor David Watson, Professor in Ecology at Charles Sturt University, studies ecological interactions between plants and animals with an emphasis on parasitic plants. He is the Author of '*The Mistletoes of Southern Australia*'. He says Mistletoes kill as many plants as fleas kill dogs. In other words only very sick plants will be affected.

His studies into biodiversity of urban landscapes have led to council's decision to 'infect' Melbourne's Plane trees (*Platanus orientalis* x *Platanus occidentalis*) with Creeping Mistletoe, *Muellerina eucalyptoides*.



Muelleriana eucalyptoides – Image: iNaturalist

Plane trees, while they grow well in our polluted city landscapes, are not eaten by insects and are bare for months of the year, providing no habitat or food for native animals or insects. The Mistletoes, once established, provide food in the form of leaves, flowers and nectar, and shelter year-round for birds and animals. They can, and do, flower at any time of the year, providing food when nothing else is available.

So, three cheers for the Mistletoe, I might think about infecting a tree at my place.

Watch a video story with Professor Watson [here](#).

COMMITTEE VACANCY

With Phil Royce's retirement we find ourselves looking for a member or two to join our committee. The task is not onerous or difficult (or even scary). If you think you might like to help us out have a chat with any of the committee members and they'll set your mind at rest 😊

CONTACTING THE SECRETARY

Please use apsgeelong@gmail.com if you wish to contact the secretary for any reason. Thanks.